

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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EASLEY PROCLAIMS APRIL AS SECC VOLUNTEER MONTH
NAMES SECRETARY SWINSON CAMPAIGN CHAIR

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley today proclaimed April as State Employees Combined Campaign (SECC) Volunteer Month to recognize the many contributions of state employee volunteers and kickoff the State Employees Combined Campaign's new program, *Celebrate Stars!*.

In addition, Gov. Easley named Secretary Gwynn Swinson of the N.C. Department of Administration as state campaign chair of the SECC. Secretary Swinson follows Secretary George Sweat of the N.C. Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, who has served as state chair for the past three years.

"State employee volunteers play a vital role," Easley said. "They work in our communities using their time and talent to make a real difference in the lives of their neighbors. Their hard work and dedication benefits the entire state."

During the past 18 years, the SECC has focused on monetary donations. This year, they have developed a new program entitled *Celebrate Stars!* where state employees will have the opportunity to participate in hands-on volunteer activities with the charities involved in the SECC.

Celebrate Stars! will provide recognition for the many ways in which state employees serve their local communities. Charities have posted volunteer projects at the SECC's website (www.ncsecc.org), where state employees can sign up to participate. By participating in these projects, *Celebrate Stars!* will give state employees the chance to see the effects of their financial support while working directly with the charities.

Last year, state employees raised more than \$4.2 million for various charities and have raised \$48 million since the SECC's first campaign in 1986. Currently, there are more than 900 charities involved in the SECC.

For more information about the Celebrate Stars! program, please contact Tricia Bristow at the State Employees Combined Campaign at (919) 821-2886, triciabristow@ncsecc.org or visit their website at www.ncsecc.org

For a digital photograph of today's proclamation signing ceremony, please contact the Governor's Press Office at (919) 733-5612.

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